

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1308

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001

ILLEGAL ENTRY OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD

AJAY CHAKRABORTY; SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the allegations made by the Greenpeace activists that genetically engineered food have entered in the country illegally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for which the Genetic Food Products have been allowed to enter in the country without the approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee;
- (c) whether any investigation has been made/being made into such alleged violation of law;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to stop the use and sale of genetically engineered products?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) to (e): Although some activists have been alleging about illegal entry of genetically engineered food in the country, the Government of India has not yet accorded approval for commercial release of any Genetically Engineered Food in the country. As per the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 it is mandatory that all such products obtain the approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Such products are to be assessed from biosafety (environmental and food safety) angle before they are permitted for use and sale in the country. Genetically engineered products are introduced only after adequate safety evaluation world over. Biosafety protocols presently being used in the country are based on latest scientific knowledge on food safety.